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Daily News on Innovation & Technology

21st July, 2025

ISRO Chairman unveils plans for India's space station by 2035, human moon landing by 2040

By The Hindu Bureau, July 21, 2025

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman V. Narayanan has announced that India will establish its own space station by 2035 and will send an astronaut to the moon and bring them back to Earth independently by 2040.



South Korea wants to build a moon base by 2045

By Mike Wall, July 21, 2025

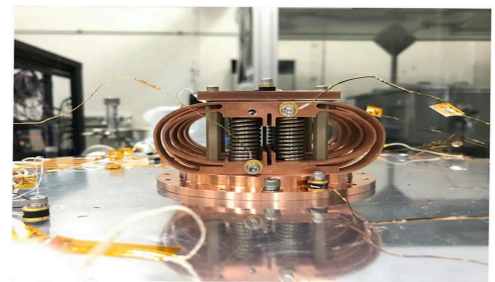
The nation wants to build a moon base by 2025, The Korea Times reported on Thursday (July 17), citing a long-term exploration road map that the Korea AeroSpace Administration (KASA) laid out that same day during a hearing at the National Research Foundation of Korea in Daejeon.



Cold Weather Alloy Opens New Possibilities for Space Technology

By Mark Thompson, July 20, 2025

A team of scientists have developed a new material that could transform how we build equipment for space missions and other extremely cold environments.



India set to manufacture first commercial-scale semiconductor chip; IIT students design 20 chipsets - Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw

By Times of India, July 20, 2025

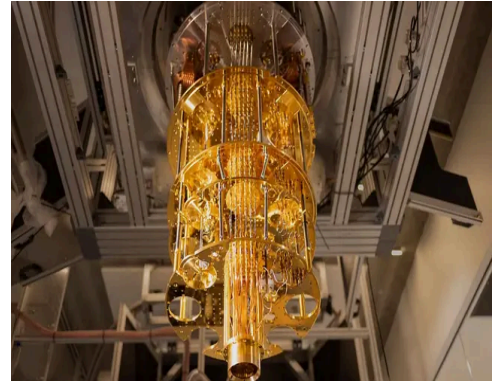
India is inching closer to a major milestone in its semiconductor journey, with the country expected to produce its first commercial-scale, made-in-India semiconductor chip this year.



[Why is the world's most powerful quantum computer being built in Denmark?](#)

By Atharva Gosavi, July 18, 2025

Quantum technology is becoming very important for both business and global power. In the last ten years, technology has improved a lot. Denmark and the Nordic countries have done strong research in this field, but they may fall behind other countries.



[Printing the future: Scott Miller on the power of hybrid electronics](#)

By Christopher McFadden, July 18, 2025

In our latest episode of Lexicon, we sat down with Dr. Scott Miller, Director of Technology at NextFlex, to discuss what hybrid electronics are, why they matter, and how they're reshaping the future of U.S. manufacturing.



[Microsoft uses human poop to scrub 4.9 million tons of carbon from AI footprint](#)

By Neetika Walter, July 18, 2025

Of all things, it's human poop helping scrub AI's carbon footprint clean. In a bid to offset the soaring emissions from its artificial intelligence empire, Microsoft has signed a deal to bury 4.9 million metric tons of carbon by flushing a slurry of human and farm waste 5,000 feet underground.



News Articles

'AI-assisted Coding's the Way Forward in IT Fresher Hiring'

LTIMindtree CEO says focus is on learning ability, foundational skills

Beena Parmar

Bengaluru: Hiring for freshers or entry-level graduates will have artificial intelligence or AI-assisted coding as part of the improvised assessment as the correlation between revenue and headcount growth becomes more de-linear, said Venugopal Lambu, chief executive officer of the sixth-largest Indian IT company LTIMindtree.

"We are very optimistic about continuing our effort in inducting freshers. We added 1,600 freshers this quarter and we are going to add more throughout this year as well. AI-assisted coding is the way to go about it," said Lambu.

Lambu said there was more emphasis in terms of the learning ability and the foundational skill sets that freshers have on which companies can build, using their training and learning methods. "So those assessments will always improvise it... Whenever we hire people, we take all those aspects, whether it is related to the coding roles, cloud roles or infrastructure roles or data roles," he said. Reliance on freshers by building a pyramid-style organisation



"We added 1,600 freshers this quarter and we are going to add more throughout this year as well. AI-assisted coding is the way to go about it"

VENUGOPAL LAMBU
CEO, LTIMindtree

structure has been key for the over-\$283-billion outsourcing industry's services delivery model. However, over the past more than a year, since AI took centre-stage entry-level jobs and hiring at technology firms was impacted with companies coding 20-25% via AI, reducing the need for junior-level human coders.

As AI technology permeates across functions and solutions, Lambu believes there is a correla-

tion or a non-linearity in the revenue growth and workforce addition. "Over the last few quarters, when we added revenue, the headcount has not necessarily increased. So, there is a correlation or a non-linearity, but it is too early to call out to what extent it will happen," he added.

LTIMindtree, formed with the merger of L&T Infotech and Mindtree in November 2022, last week reported a 5.2% year-on-year growth in the first quarter revenue of fiscal year 2026 at \$1.15 billion. It was a 1.97% sequential rise boosted by healthy growth from Europe and its consumer or retail clients.

Lambu transitioned to take over the Mumbai-headquartered Larsen & Toubro (L&T) subsidiary's top seat on May 31, after induction into the firm in January.

The company announced its largest deal with a US-based client worth \$450 million in the first quarter. "We are on the verge of signing a couple of deals, and one of them will actually beat our own record. That gives me the confidence that we will move towards the double-digit growth at some time in the second half of the year," Lambu said.

Source: The Economic Times Newspaper, 21-07-2025

Page No 14

Link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/15BUuW7TJjw9wHiFddfHwE4IfWIDL8IG5/view>

AI reshaping deal contours between IT firms, clients

Jas Bardia

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BENGALURU: Global corporations embracing artificial intelligence are reshaping their outsourcing deals with Indian software giants, moving away from traditional fixed-price contracts. The shift reflects AI's disruptive influence on India's \$280 billion IT services industry, as focus shifts away from human labour and towards faster project completion.

Fortune 500 clients waking up to AI's gains from fewer people and faster work are considering so-called time and material contracts which are based on actual time and labour spent—At least, before committing to the traditional fixed-price pacts.

A time and material (T&M) contract is an agreement where a client pays a service provider based on the actual hours worked by their team and the cost of materials or resources

used, rather than a fixed upfront price for the entire project.

"There are some (contracts) where we do based on the outcome. There are some customers that expect that this is better to do it on T&M (time and material)," said K. Krithivasan, managing director and chief executive of TCS, during the company's post-earnings conference call with analysts on 10 July.

As agentic AI evolved, clients also want to see how they are able to benefit from the results," Krithivasan said.

"So, they want to do it on T&M. And then after a period of time, move towards the fixed-price model. So, we are seeing both options here."

The change reflects the disruption that AI is causing for India's \$280-billion information technology services industry. And it comes when clients are still cautious about discretionary spending amid global uncertainty and AI risks.



The shift reflects disruptive influence of AI on India's \$280 bn IT services industry. REUTERS

LTIMindtree, too, saw similar changes in its contracts with clients.

"I saw a positive response when the discussion was about converting some of the time and material contracts to managed services and output-based construct," said Venu Lambu, managing director and chief executive officer of LTIMindtree, in an interview with Mint on 18 July. According to Lambu, this was driven by an AI-led solution provided by the company.

"Our clients are excited about it; so they want to hear more from us, and they want to see how we can help them to transition from the time and material contract to a more outcome or managed services-based construct, and we see that as a big opportunity," said Lambu.

Both TCS and LTIMindree had a mixed first quarter of FY26. TCS ended with \$7.42 billion in revenue in the three months through June, down 0.59% sequentially, whereas LTI Mindtree reported a revenue of \$1.15 billion, up 1.97% on a quarterly basis.

The revenue breakup of Wipro Ltd, India's fourth-largest IT services firm, over the last two years also shows how IT sector contracts are changing.

Wipro's share of fixed price contracts reduced to 52% of overall revenue at the end of the three months through June from 56% at the end of the April-June 2023. During the same time, its share of time and

materials contracts increased to 48% from 43%.

"Clients agree to this as it shifts the risk to the IT service providers for cost overruns and scope creep, and forces the service providers to generate the productivity that AI promises," said Peter Bendor-Samuel, founder of Everest Group.

As of now, India's IT service providers get paid in a staggered manner rather than a lump-sum amount at the end of the year.

Such instances of deferring payments arise due to macroeconomic uncertainties, which might compel companies to service their payment obligations to their IT vendors at a later date.

According to Phil Fersht, chief executive of HFS Research, the change in ways through which companies engage with IT service providers is brought about as clients seek lower prices from IT out-sourcers.

Source: The Hindustan Times Newspaper, 21-07-2025

Page No 14

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